

searches. He also served for 14 years on the Pacifica School District board where he focused on delivering the best possible education and learning environment for the students and teachers. His last vote on the school board was a vote to "surplus" the Oddstad school property so that it could be utilized better in the future. Seven years ago, plans to convert the property into workforce housing began. Mike was already on the city council and he pushed hard to get the plan approved. However, technical delays have been postponing the vote which is now expected in late January or February of 2022. While Mike will miss the vote by just about a month, Pacifica will not forget his leadership on the project. He was also instrumental in the creation of 122 workforce housing units for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike was born in San Francisco. He received his AA in Criminology from City College of San Francisco and his BA in Recreation from San Francisco State University. He has worked as a savings and loan branch manager, investment manager, and realtor in addition to his jobs at the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike and his wife Liz live in Pacifica with their middle daughter Siobhan. Their son Sean and daughter Alana have moved out and are building their own families. In his free time, Mike likes to barbecue and smoke meats, study history and play trivia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mike O'Neill for his three decades of public service, ten of them on the city council. While he is leaving the dais, his fingerprints will remain on many Pacifica institutions. We thank him for his contributions and hope that we will still see him as Santa Claus during the annual tree lighting ceremony sharing a jovial ho, ho, ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3462 due to a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 506.

HONORING PATRICIA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor Patricia A. Givens' incredible life of public service and to congratulate her on her retirement. Patricia's remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Patricia was born in Tampa, Fla., at MacDill Air Force Base, where her father served. She graduated from Jefferson High School and later attended Hillsborough Community Col-

lege and Nova Southeastern University, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. She serves as the President for the Carver City Lincoln Gardens Civic Homeowners Association Inc. and is an active volunteer with her church, Revealing Truth Ministries.

After her tenure with a private company, Patricia's public service started in 2010 in the district offices of Florida Representative Betty Reed and Florida Representative Ed Narain. She then joined my district team in 2016 as office manager. Patricia has since been the foundation of my office, applying her organizational and administrative skills to ensure efficient operations so constituents are served with the highest level of professionalism, tracking each constituent interaction with attentiveness and accuracy. She is driven by her compassion and taps into her wealth of knowledge for local resources to help each constituent with understanding and kindness, and coordinates assistance right away.

As intern coordinator, Patricia has gone above and beyond to provide a beneficial as well as rewarding experience for interns. Because of this and her supportive nature, she has impacted the lives of students in a major way. Each semester, she has brought on a team of impressive interns who have flourished academically and professionally, returning years later to thank our office for their pivotal internship experience. Additionally, Patricia is credited with facilitating rehabilitation to our district office and ensuring our staff have the necessary resources they require to be successful each day at work.

Patricia has been an integral part of my team. However, I am sure she will continue extending her generosity as wife, mother, grandmother, neighborhood advocate, church member and traveler. Patricia is married to her husband Gary and has three children, and they are blessed with multiple grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Patricia embodies what it is to be a public servant and citizen. She has paved the way for generations to come, always giving her very best, leading by example, and always working to make lives better for those she serves. On behalf of the citizens of Florida and my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I am proud to honor Patricia A. Givens for her formidable efforts and selfless devotion to our community and congratulate on her well-deserved retirement.

REINTRODUCING THE EMERGING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Emerging Business Encouragement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation.

This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees. The company must be less than 5 years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AS THE "DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate 3 schools in my Congressional District for their display of excellence this past weekend at the University Interscholastic League Texas High School Football State Championships in Arlington.

This past Friday, South Oak Cliff High School, part of the Dallas Independent School District, became the first DISD school to repeat as state champions by winning their thirteenth straight game, defeating Port Neches-Groves High School by a score of 34 to 24 to win the UIL Class 5A Division 2 title.